



Children & Family Issue: Rainbow Resources and
an excerpt from 'Diary of a Gay, Pregnant Bride'

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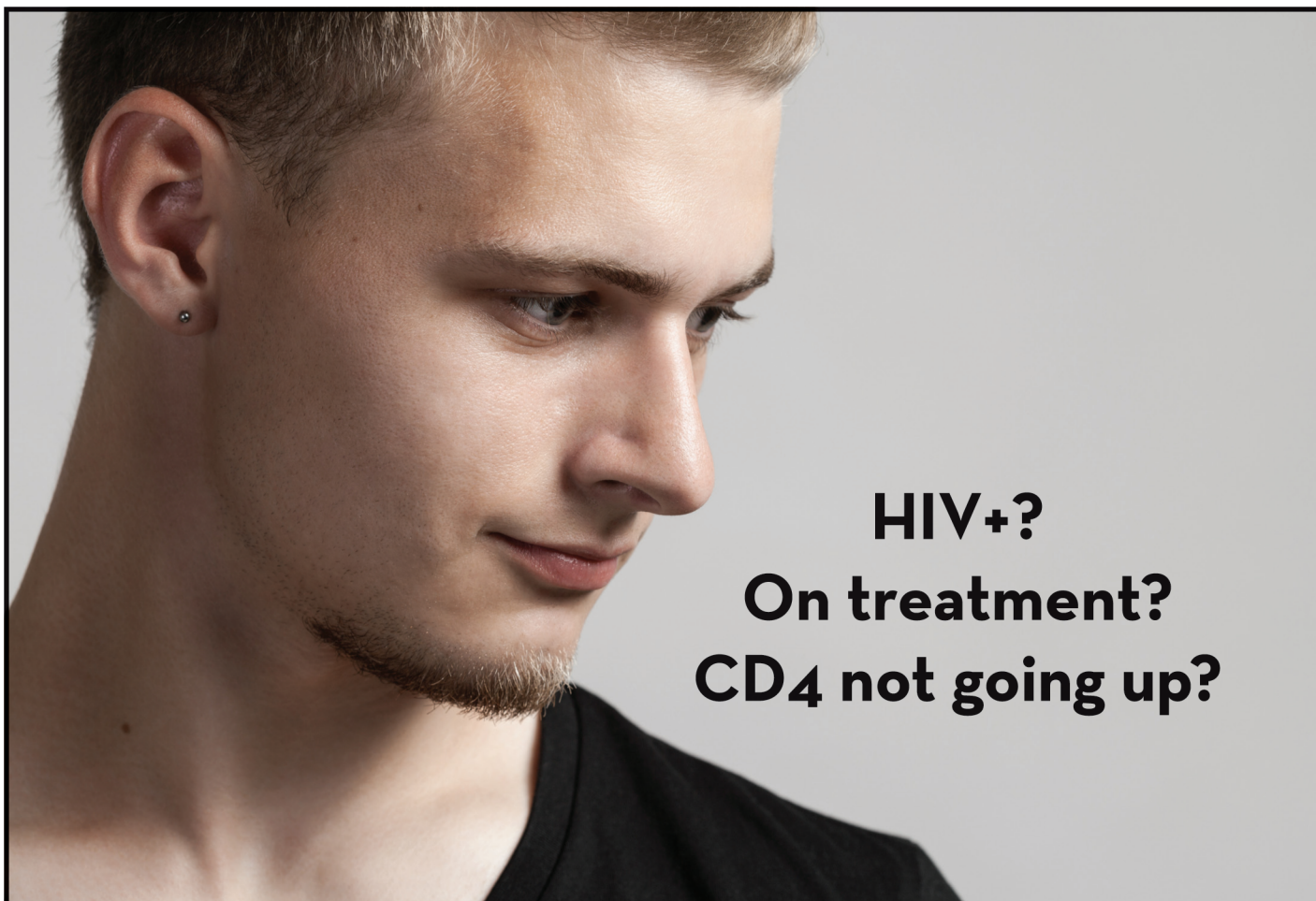
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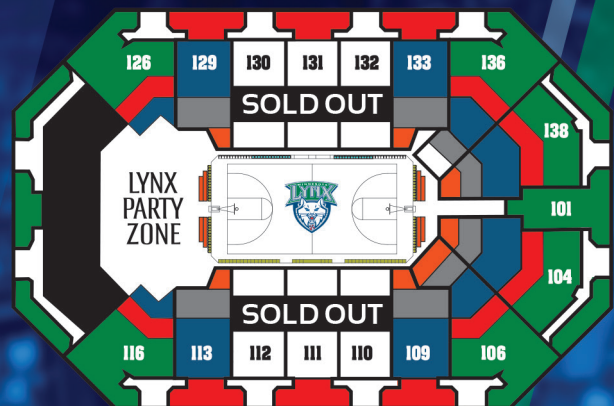
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Page 42: Photo by Meghan Elizabeth Photography. Page 22: Photo by Hubert Bonnet. Page 32: Photo by Matthew F. Mitchell. Page 50: Photo courtesy of Hyundai Motor America.

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ON THE COVER

Summer in the Cities includes the Twin Cities as well as surrounding towns, where you can find lakeside dining in such an idyllic location as 6Smith in Wayzata. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

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Brian, age 45, California

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Interesting Fact: I always wanted to be a gay man because I should've been born a queen.

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OUR LAVENDER

FROM THE EDITOR | BY ANDY LIEN

More Than Just a Number

I'm not a huge fan of math, but when I was talking about drag queens the other day, I pulled out the issue that had our dear Wanda Wisdom on the cover with some sailors from the Guthrie's *H.M.S. Pinafore* production. That was my first full issue in 2011: #422, 100 issues ago. That's more than 100 different editorial topics, 100 attractive covers, and 100 opportunities to shine a light on what this community is doing here in Minnesota and beyond. When I start looking at numbers, it becomes a slippery slope and I actually get a little giddy about them.

Throughout the publication of these 100 issues, 7,925 website stories have been published on www.LavenderMagazine.com. If we were to put those stories into hard copy, that would be well more than double what we can give you in the magazine, itself. Big Gay News gives us pertinent headlines daily, arts pieces and sports stories are added, photo galleries of you at various rainbow events are showcased on a frequent and regular basis. The last 100 issues also coincide with the rise of the tablets and electronic publishing; Lavender Magazine was the first GLBT publication to be available electronically. Currently, there are 15,267 Newsstand subscriptions via iTunes, which means that many of our readers get Lavender handily delivered for free every two weeks to their iPads or iPhones. Look it up and join the crowd.

This issue shows off what's available to us this summer in both Minneapolis and St. Paul as well as the surrounding suburbs. I grew up in the country, but my mother was raised in East St. Paul and my parents met at the University of Minnesota, so we were always coming to the

Cities. Living in the country meant we had to travel to anything, whether it was a restaurant or a movie theater, a grocery store or our church. It also means that I don't blink when I need to be across the metro area from one event to the next. Whether it be my Jeep or the light rail, I am ready to roll and see what these many Cities have in store for me. I hope you get out there yourself this summer. Go to one of the 229 events on our online calendar right now. Find our nearly 700 distribution locations where you can pick up a hard copy of *Lavender*. Join us at one of the summer First Thursdays.

Okay, I'll stop with the numbers...after this: thank you for being one of the wonderful reasons I get to look back on 100 issues with such pride and joy.

I'll see you out there.

With thanks,

Andy ■



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Some Things Don't Bear Repeating

Some things should never arise in the first place, and, having seen the light of day, should be quashed as they resurface. Take Texas Representative Matt Schaefer's recent amendment.

Schaefer's amendment made it illegal to terminate a pregnancy after twenty weeks, even if the fetus "has a severe and irreversible abnormality." Schaefer would force every mother, already in jeopardy, to be forced by the state to live with and carry to term a dead fetus with no consideration for her health or her obstetrician's advice.

Schaefer brushed aside the acute physical and emotional suffering that such a law would impose, peremptorily dismissing current medical evidence that carrying a nonviable fetus to term can lead to sepsis and the mother's death along with the fetus. Suffering, he intoned, "is part of the human condition, since sin entered the world."

In Schaefer's belief system, his misogynistic, fundamentalist religious views have the moral right to trump both his constituents' needs and modern medical science.

His amendment actually passed, but there was a hue and cry from his fellow legislators, and Schaefer removed it for "full committee review" after Trey Martinez Fischer, House member from San Antonio,

filed a legislative point of order.

Schaefer's words, unfortunately, are not new or only from his own narrow mind, but echo those of Georgia Representative Terry England who in 2012 wanted to impose the same strictures on pregnant women. I wrote then that England, also a farmer, lumped women with livestock explaining, "Life gives us many experiences...I've had the experience of delivering calves, dead and alive. Delivering pigs, dead or alive. It breaks our hearts to see those animals not make it." In England's mind there was no acknowledgment that a woman, cognizant of the tragedy and danger of carrying her already dead child, might be in any way different from a pregnant cow or pig.

Representative Schaefer's need to impose his religious will on women is as despicable now as England's was then. The need to control women — reproductively and politically — keeps resurfacing, continuing to pollute. Simple empathy, modern technology, human or veterinary medical doctors' opinions not withstanding, the intransigent won't change or be eradicated. Like freshly-hatched bedbugs or Deepwater Horizon oil in the Gulf of Mexico, they'll be back. ■

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RAINBOW HEALTH INITIATIVE GALA

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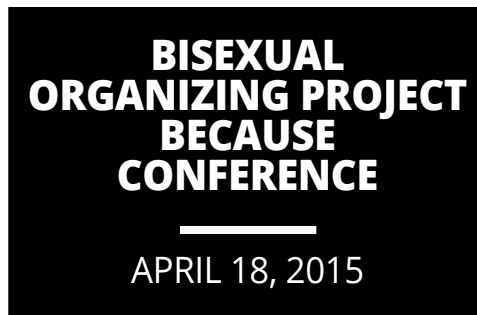


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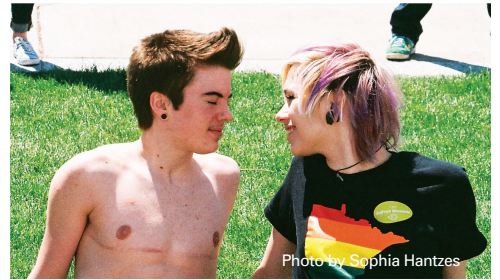
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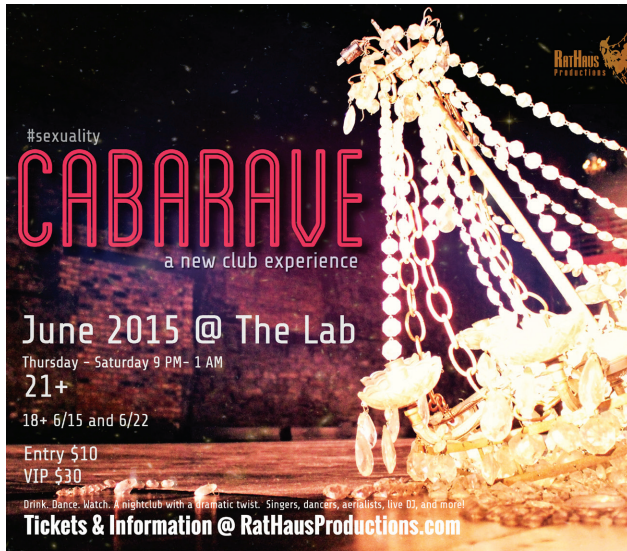
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PHOTOS Greg Helgeson

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Cabarave: #Sexuality. Photo by Sasha Andreev

CABARAVE: #SEXUALITY
Thurs., Fri., Sat. evenings in June
Lab Theater, 700 N. 1st St., Mpls.
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www.thelabtheater.org

The Lab continues to be an “in” place for entertainment that’s classy, sexy, and unique. RatHaus Productions’ *CABARAVE: #sexuality* can be seen there during June. RatHaus Managing Director Kameron Nelson says it “is a project that has been in the works for the last six years. Jessie Storovich, owner and creator of RatHaus Productions, initially thought to create a theatrical nightclub. [It] has evolved into a fusion of nightlife and performance art. Our mission was to expose individuals who would rarely experience theater or dance to this spectacle of performance in a less intimidating atmosphere. Performances will include live dancers, vocalists, instrumentalists, DJs, aerial silks, and performance painting. This has been a collaborative process in which each of the performers has contributed choreography and played to their individual strengths as performers. RatHaus will continue to produce CABARAVE in coming months with a different theme and performances.”

CANTUS: COVERS: A POP CONCERT
June 5 - 13
Cowles Center, 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.
(612) 206-3600
www.thecowlescenter.org

The acclaimed mens vocal ensemble plays the Cowles. Aaron Humble, Cantus tenor and tour manager, says, “Cantus always says that good music is good music, no matter the genre. That being said, most of the music we do is from the classical or folk tradition — but *Covers* is a different story. I don’t know that most of us ever imagined we’d be doing covers of Michael Jackson, Paul Simon, or Christina Aguilera, but it’s always a lot of fun for us and our audience seems to love it, too!”

THE 4TH ANNUAL QUEER PROM 2015 FOR ADULTS

June 21
Hell’s Kitchen
80 S. 9th St., Mpls.
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20% Theatre Company Twin Cities’ annual Queer Prom is becoming a tradition and it serves an important healing purpose in providing GLBTQ adults who either did not attend their high school prom or who could/would not take a member of their same gender to their prom. Finally, a way to have the the prom experience. Adult allies are also welcome. 20% Artistic Director Claire Avitabile says, “Queers and their allies in their 20s, 30s, 40s, and up can come as they are, in anything from jeans and a t-shirt to glittery ball gowns, and expect to dance ’til they drop with DJ Blowtorch throughout the night. This is an adult prom (age 18+) for anyone and everyone who never had the prom experience they always

wished for; or for anyone and everyone who just wants to have an annual excuse to get dressed up — whatever that means to them — and have a ball with partners and friends! Rebecca J. Lawrence Photography will have a photo booth set up for prom memory-making and photos will be posted on her website and 20% Theatre’s Facebook page. Special guest burlesque and drag stars will shine on stage with performances throughout the night, including Esme Rodriguez, Marcel Michelle, Naughty Dottie, and more!”

FROM DARKNESS
Through June 14
Nimbus Theatre,
1517 Central Ave. NE, Mpls.
(612) 548-1380
www.nimbustheatre.com

Nimbus is a destination for new plays. Writer-director Josh Cragun now gives us *From Darkness*. He relates that “a lot of the play is about the transition from the WASPish art world of the begin-



Cantus: Covers: A Pop Concert. Photo by Curtis Johnson



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From Darkness. Photo by Mathieu Lindquist

ning of the 20th century to the world that now exists in New York. Since the play is set at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, an institution that took 40 years to elect its first Jewish trustee, and has yet to have a female director. This juxtaposition is very present in the play. Andy Warhol and Betty Parson, two early art world figures to openly bare their sexuality, are both characters.”

Cragun adds that *From Darkness* muses on what we choose to value and why: “The subjects of authenticity and copyright have always been interests of mine, but several years ago I started reading about forgery. I’ve always been an art history geek, and writing a play set in the New York post-war art scene was very compelling to me. I was fascinated by what it would take for a talented artist to turn to a life of crime, destroying the very things they once loved. Equally, I was interested in why we value authenticity still in a world ruled by mass production and digital reproduction. What makes something real? And if no one notices something as a reproduction, why is it suddenly worth less if we decide it isn’t what we thought it was?”

PETER PAN

Through June 21

Children’s Theatre, 2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls.

(612) 874-0400

www.childrenstheatre.org

The Twin Cities’ “Triple Threat” for musical theater has delivered a wonderful production of *Peter Pan* at the Children’s Theatre. Those three are director Peter Rothstein, choreographer Joe Chvala, and music director Denise Prosek. The story calls for a belief in fairies, which can also be thought of as the need to trust our imaginations and our sense of risk and adventure. Children and some adults may well take it more literally and so be it! That sense is also built right into Rothstein’s concept with

aerial work that enthralls. Tyler Michaels is mercurial in the title role and Alanna Saunders embodies Wendy, the London girl who becomes the mother of Neverland, to perfection. These are

now archetypal roles which must be played specifically in order to work. And these two, along with the rest of the cast, do exactly that. The effect is great.

CTC is consistently superior in their production qualities and their works are generally contemporary. However, there’s something unusual about this rendition of *Peter Pan*: it works its magic from tunes of two generations ago. Tunes that middle-aged and older folks will recognize from recesses of memory. What’s more is that the sold-out audience, filled with children, was enchanted throughout the matinee I caught. Just as I was. This musical is based on J.M. Barrie’s writings with music by Morris “Moose” Charlap and Jule Styne and lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, Betty Comden, and Adolph Green. These figures were giants in their day and passed away long ago. How beautiful that Prosek has directed the nostalgic music with such loving attention. ■



Peter Pan. Photo by Dan Norman

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LAVENDER'S PATIO GUIDE



6SMITH

BY BRADLEY TRAYNOR | PHOTOGRAPHY BY HUBERT BONNET

You're in luck. I found your favorite new lakeside getaway for the summer. And you won't have to drive deep into the hinterlandia to get there, either. It's a quick hop on and off the freeway from downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul and offers some of the best views of Lake Minnetonka. Park your boat or fanny dockside, procure a cocktail, and let the waves carry away your urban burden as smiling waitstaff inundate you with some of the best food beyond the Twin Cities.

Behold 6Smith.

And behold it I did with friends one sunny Wednesday afternoon a few weeks back. The converted Boatworks has been open just about a year and abuts Lake Minnetonka herself at

the edge of downtown Wayzata. Walking through its doors, I was struck instantly by 6Smith's ambitious charm. Ambitious being an apt understatement.

Owner Randy Stanley and his team succeeded in converting

an old boatworks into a modern, contemporary gathering place. On a lake! An urban warehouse of tall ceilings and a sweeping open space one would expect in the North Loop that simultaneously complements its lakeshore



(Above) Consider outdoor seating to enjoy the few warm days Minnesota has to offer. (Left) Enjoy a drink and some laughs while deciding what you're going to order.

setting, letting waves of blue from both sky and water wash across the main dining room. It's like having dinner in an art gallery with living landscape paintings as your backdrop.

And you're not just limited to a seat in the main dining room either. Depending on your mood, there's ample outdoor seating dockside as well as a wonderful rooftop bar overlooking the lake. If you arrived by boat (fancy), there's a slip with your name on it with access to a tasty to-go menu.

Speaking of menus... the only thing more ambitious than 6Smith's footprint is, in fact, its menu. And if my experience is any indication, you'll find yourself planning your next trip before you've even finished your first. Seriously.

This is a menu ripe with possibility. Lots of juicy, meaty possibility. With something for every appetite. And no matter what direction you go in, whether high-end steak and lobster or low-rent greasy burger and fries, you're in good hands. The quality and thoughtfulness that goes into each plate on our table was apparent from the first bite to the last.

And there were a lot of bites worth mentioning.

For starters, don't miss black



CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ➔



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Dive into the cast-iron seared jumbo scallops with poached tomato, potato gnocchi, balsamic, beurre monte, and fresno peppers.

pepper shrimp. They practically popped off our plate in tasty Technicolor thanks to their pickled pineapple, ginger, and black bean sauce.

If like me, you have an unnatural relationship with all things bacon, by all means order the bacon and bourbon. If, also like me, you don't drink, hand your friend the bourbon and keep the bacon for yourself. Seems a fair trade.

One of the biggest surprises of the entire meal — and favorites of the table by far — were the baby back ribs. 6Smith smokes their own meat and, my friends, as a former Texan I can assure you, they smoke it well. The meat had just as much flavor as the sauce. Were there not a burger headed my way, I would've eaten more than one order myself.

Lucky for me, however, there was a burger headed my way. Not just any burger. They call it A Fat Burger. This beefy beauty is layered with bacon and onion jam, Fini cheddar fondue, Neuske's bacon, and American cheese, all stuffed between a brown butter brioche bun.

Look, I love burgers. You've read about my burger tour. I would be proud to put this burger on my list of favorites. If you too fancy yourself a true burger lover, make sure to hit up 6Smith for Fat Pants Friday. The name couldn't

be any more appropriate. Each Friday a monstrous burger of gluttonous proportions is served up in limited quantity. A recent version combined, among other things, a burger, chicken tenders, mac and cheese, and bacon. On a bun. This is not for the faint of heart. Or anyone with an actual heart condition.

I'd also put 6Smith's fries on a best list too. And not just their french fries. The beet and sweet potato fries deserve lots of warm and fuzzy love. Especially when dipped in lemon mayo. Frankly, the world needs more lemon mayo.

If by this point, you've eaten a healthy sum and think perhaps you have absolutely no room for dessert, I urge you to order the chocolate brownie sundae. This rich, chocolatey, almost custard-like brownie — topped with cookies and pretzels and Nutella whip — is mandatory. Truly a perfect end to an utterly satisfying meal.

So satisfying was our meal, dear reader, that I've already made reservations for a return visit. In fact, my partner and I decided 6Smith is the perfect place to celebrate our anniversary later this month. I have my eye on a ribeye and a certain lobster who goes by the name Thermidor.

I can't think of a better way to celebrate than sitting lakeside



No room on the patio? No problem. Mosey on up to the bar. You'll get your drinks faster that way, anyway, right?

on a summer evening enjoying great food. And I can't imagine a better lakeside with better food than 6Smith in Wayzata. If you too are looking to flee the metro this summer or just want a great night out, join me.

6Smith
294 East Grove Lane
Wayzata
www.6smith.com



(Left) The baby back ribs satisfy every smoked meat craving, even that of a former Texan. (Right) Black pepper shrimp are an unexpected pop of flavor with pickled pineapple, ginger, and black bean sauce.



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WHY WAYZATA?

BY SHANE LUECK | PHOTOGRAPHY BY HUBERT BONNET

What do you picture when you hear the name “Wayzata”? The jewel of Lake Minnetonka. Lakeside village. City with a small-town feel. The city fosters different images for different people. According to the city’s chamber of commerce, the name Wayzata (pronounced Wise-etta) is derived from the Native American word Waziyata, which had almost a mystical connotation to the Sioux tribes who originally inhabited the area. “Waziya” was their god of the North who blew the cold winds from his mouth. With the suffix “ta” added, the name meant “North Shore.”

Though Lake Minnetonka was noticed by white settlers in 1822, it was not until 1852 that two pioneer families settled on the present site of Wayzata. Over the next few years others followed. A townsite was laid out and several establishments sprang up, among them a general store,

a sawmill, a post office, and a log schoolhouse.

With the help of railroads and tourist trade, Wayzata boomed to be the city you see today. Here, you’ll find the latest in lakeside fashions, artwork, antiques, and collectibles. And here, you’ll find an eclectic assortment of restaur-

rants that range from casual to elegant. Most offer lakefront views, and none are more than a stone’s throw away from the water. You can watch the cruisers go by or look out at picturesque clusters of sailboats. The theater of seasons never shuts down.

In the winter, you’ll see ice racers, skaters, and dozens of ice fishing houses. The Wayzata Depot, with its exceptional view of the lake, still stands as a symbol of the city’s glory years. It is now home to the Greater Wayzata Area Chamber of Commerce and the Wayzata Historical Society. Just 11 miles west of Minneapolis, it’s the best place to see Minnesota’s most popular lake. Enjoy the past, present, and future that is Wayzata. It’s as good as the good life in Minnesota gets.

The citizens of Wayzata have a great deal of pride in their lakeside community (just go into any shop and ask about the city, they’ll beam with excitement). Wayzata has a thriving downtown business community, high-quality developments in the works, and beautiful residential neighborhoods. Careful planning has allowed the city to maintain open space, park lands, and a “small-town” feel that makes Wayzata truly a special and historic community.

Looking down the main roads downtown at all of the shops and restaurants, I can’t help but get a *Mamma Mia!* vibe. You know the one: where the columns and textured, plastered walls bring a



sense of calm, serene, seaside life. Even the Walgreens looks like a coastal beach house!

There’s even an artificial boardwalk outside of Gianni’s Steakhouse, which has earned a reputation for its juicy 22-ounce porterhouse and 12-ounce bone-in filet mignon topped with the smoothest, creamiest béarnaise sauce in town. Gianni’s is the perfect venue for lunch, or to share a romantic night out, celebrate a special occasion, or simply unwind at happy hour.

For munchers looking for a more trendy and less classic eatery hotspot, check out CōV (located where Sunsets used to be). This restaurant and bar combines Midwest comfort and hospitality with the unmistakable allure and energy of Nantucket or the Hamptons. The coastal environment and water views transform the Minnesota lakeside into a unique East Coast getaway. The combination of high style and relaxation creates a charming atmosphere that few will want to leave (and being awarded Minnesota’s Best Crab Cakes by the *Star Tribune*



There isn’t a bad sight to be had in downtown Wayzata — lake views all around!

doesn't hurt either).

Still have room for dessert? Walk on over to Ben & Jerry's for a treat. Seriously — take a walk and feel the freshwater seaside breeze. Becky Pierson, president of the chamber of commerce says, "Sometimes we have parking right at our front doors but sometimes we have a chance to get out and stretch our legs and stroll a couple blocks and take in the sights along the way."

Ben & Jerry's has a long history of commitment to issues of social justice, including gay rights, and have been supporting marriage equality for over 35 years. According to the company's memo, this commitment is grounded in the company's core values, which include "a deep respect for people inside and outside our company and an unshakable belief that all people deserve full and equal civil rights."

Mary Kay Kopp, owner of the Wayzata Ben & Jerry's, shares the company's beliefs

and says her shop will be carrying the "Apple-y Ever After" flavor this summer following the company's rollout of the flavor designed for marriage equality (the pints feature a male couple standing atop a rainbow-decorated wedding cake!). But don't feel pressured to try this flavor if it's not your cup of tea when there are so many others just waiting to hit your taste buds. "Anyone who comes into our shop will have a great experience," Kopp says. "Our saying here at Wayzata Ben & Jerry's is 'We serve Joy for the Belly and Soul.'"

After getting your fill, you're going to want to take a walk around and visit some shops, and Wayzata's got something for every occasion.

Got pets? You'll want to hit up LuLu & Luigi. The family-owned store is home to an award-winning grooming "Pawlour" and an enchanting boutique full of unique merchandise for dogs and cats. They take pride in bringing

you the latest in fashion, collars, leashes, supplies, and even a dog bakery! So, whether you have a cat, purse-dog, or hunting dog, there is something for you at LuLu & Luigi.

Maybe you're looking to pick something up for yourself. For distinctive gifts, home, and kitchen merchandise, take a peek into Five Swans. Whether you are looking to freshen up your home or are interested in a fabulous gift idea, Five Swans has you covered with products that are traditional, elegant, unique, and vary with the seasons, trends, and customer

preferences. They guarantee that you'll be able to find the perfect gift for any occasion.

Or walk down the road a little bit to Grace Hill, a full-service interior design studio, with a twist. You can walk in and purchase pieces for your home, or take advantage of their design services for a custom look. My favorite item in the shop? Lafco candles

CONTINUED →



designed with specific rooms in mind.

Lafco (Luxury Articles and Fragrance Company) believes that a candle should complement the mood of a familiar, beloved space — and not overpower or interfere with it. This sparked the underlying concept of their first complete home fragrance line: the House & Home collection features “A Candle for Every Room,” and “A Candle For Every Home.” Lafco uses a custom blend of premium vegan waxes, optimized to burn cleanly and evenly for 90-100 hours. And with a smell like Daffodil (Guest Room) or Citrus Berry (Breakfast Room), those hours might be used up quicker than you’d think.

Don’t forget the pampering! A la Mode Boutique & Nail Spa uses organic, eco-friendly products that are free of Formaldehyde, Dibutyl Phthalate, and Toluene — so you can breathe easy (and so can the employees). A la Mode is an exclusive fashion



and home accessory boutique with a luxurious nail spa that even offers male-specific manicures and pedicures. Talk about a femme night out!

After a full day of eating, shopping, and pampering, why not stay the night? A new hotel space is currently in development. Originally designed as a boutique hotel — one of the first on Lake Minnetonka in decades — along

with retail and office space, the design has since grown to include residences. Hotels and resorts used to dot the shores of Lake Minnetonka in the 1800s, with the last one closing in 1964.

“We’re getting back to the grand ol’ history days of Minnetonka,” Steve Bohl, president of Wayzata-based BohLand Development, told the *Star Tribune* in March, adding that the hotel is es-

timated to draw 22,000 to 25,000 visitors to the lakeside city each year. “It’s almost magical what it can create for the community.”

In addition to providing beautiful new homes to many new, as well as longstanding Wayzata residents, the development offers new stores, retail business’ and restaurants. “These new additions will continue to bring an increase in business to the many existing shops, spas, and restaurants in area,” says Mallory Busacker, BohLand’s marketing director and project coordinator. “The new Landing Hotel & Residences will be a huge asset in Wayzata’s rapidly growing reputation as a vacation and entertainment destination. BohLand Development was very fortunate to come in as the developer for the Regatta condominiums and the soon-to-be Landing Hotel & Residences.”

Located in the heart of downtown Wayzata, the newly built Regatta condominiums offers a gracious and upscale lifestyle just

“We wondered how we would be treated when shopping for wedding rings as a lesbian couple. We visited three other jewelry stores before going to Wedding Day Diamonds... Our sales person, Lindsay, listened and helped us find **the perfect rings.**”



-Dianne S. (Yelp review)

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steps away from everything this Lake Minnetonka town has to offer. As the owner of one of only 59 residences you will have exclusive access to the rooftop terrace kitchen, a dog wash and pet area, 24-hour fitness room, and more. Just around the corner from the new residences is a Lunds & Byerlys Kitchen, a first-of-its kind food destination in the Twin Cities featuring prepared food offerings, a wine and beer bar, a tailored selection of groceries and more — all in one space.

As a local company with a vested interest in the community, BohLand feels that Wayzata has so much to offer. “The city of Wayzata is unique in its small town feel, incredible amenities, strong community engagement, walkability to nearly everything you could need, as well as it’s incomparable location nestled along Lake Minnetonka,” Busacker says. “It is quickly becoming the lakeside retreat and is one of the most convenient and desirable locations due to the fact that it is mere miles to downtown Minneapolis. Wayzata is the gateway to Lake Minnetonka for those working, living, or visiting from downtown and neighboring suburbs. You kind of get the best of everything.”

Whether looking for some good eats, small gifts, or a place to stay, Wayzata has it all — and set against a gorgeous lakeside backdrop to boot! There is truly something for everyone, no matter what you’re in the mood to eat or boutiques to shop away an afternoon. So, “Why Wayzata?” The better question is, with everything at your fingertips and next to the water, why not Wayzata? ■





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SUMMER WHAT TO DO

BY SHANE LUECK



Tour Old Highland tour. Photo courtesy Preserve Minneapolis

HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS Through September 19 Minneapolis, Various Locations www.preserveminneapolis.org

These tours are the best way to get to know Minneapolis, to experience the city's diverse neighborhoods, and to become more familiar with Minneapolis' many historic resources. During the summer of 2015, Preserve Minneapolis will offer over 20 unique tours that highlight the built, natural, and cultural treasures found throughout the city. Of special note is the return of the



Walking Tour Grove Street Flats. Photo courtesy Preserve Minneapolis

Queer History tour in September. A spot Oscar Wilde stepped off a train to visit Minneapolis, the place where Josephine Baker danced, the original name of the Gay 90s (now housed in the building shown here, constructed in 1921), the first known gay and lesbian bars in the city...this tour focuses on secrets and important sites of significance to the local GLBT community. Some sites are well-remembered, while others have been demolished and are largely forgotten.

ARTIST-DESIGNED MINI GOLF

May 21 – September 7
Minneapolis Sculpture Garden
www.walkerart.org/minigolf



Mini Golf. Photo courtesy Walker Art Center

Back again for summer 2015 is artist-designed mini golf! Players will encounter some old favorites, including Curling Club, Star-gazer, and Guess What? Chicken Puttl. But even seasoned players on the artist-designed circuit will have to work to stay under par thanks to some surprising new holes. And if the choice between a round of putt-putt and a wander through an air-conditioned contemporary art museum is driving a wedge between you and your loved ones, remember: every ticket includes free gallery admission (up to \$14 value). Walker on the Green features the Dog House serving all-beef hot dogs and beverages. Mini golf is extremely popular, so expect a wait time, which may be longer in the evenings and on weekends when the course is busiest.

INSPIRING BEAUTY: 50 YEARS OF EBONY FASHION FAIR

May 23 – August 16
Minnesota History Center
www.minnesotahistorycenter.org
View 40 garments from the Ebony Fashion Fair including



Chloé by Karl Lagerfeld. Photograph by John Alderson, copyright Chicago Historical Society.

pieces from Valentino, Oscar de la Renta, Christian Dior, Stephen Burrows, Bill Blass, Patrick Kelly, Bob Mackie, and others. “Inspiring Beauty” explores how a world-renowned traveling fashion show, with works from the icons of the fashion world, became a vehicle for African American empowerment, pride, and achievement.

Originally the fashion feature in *Ebony* magazine, the Fashion Fair began in 1958 and ultimately helped to redefine the concepts of beauty, style, and empowerment for African Americans. According to exhibit curator Joy Bivins, “Fashion was always the draw but the opportunity that the show provided black women to see fantastic fashion on women who looked like them was equally important. On the *Ebony* Fashion Fair runway, black women were the beauty standard.” “Inspiring Beauty” offers an unprecedented chance for visitors who never attended the show and *Ebony* Fashion Fair regulars to experience the beauty, glamour, and excitement first-hand.

NORTHERN SPARK
June 13

Minneapolis, Various Locations
www.2015.northernspark.org

On the second Saturday of June, tens of thousands of people gather throughout Minneapolis to explore the city’s great cultural institutions, play in temporary installations in the streets, and enjoy experimental performances in green spaces and under bridges. See the city in a new light. Whether it’s a projection as big as the Mill City Grain Silos or a fleet of glowing bikes circling Minneapolis Convention Center Plaza, the artists of Northern Spark shine new light on familiar places. By the end of the night you’ll find yourself with an illuminated perspective of the places you thought you knew.

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
August 27 – September 7
State Fair Grounds, St. Paul
www.mnstatefair.org

Everyone knows that the State Fair is the place to get anything on a stick, but after you’ve had your fill, then what? So much. Notably, taking the stage at the Grandstand this year is a vocal GLBT ally: Carrie Underwood. Following her win on *American Idol* in 2005, she went on to become a true multi-format, multi-media superstar, spanning achievements in music, television,



Givenchy by Alexander McQueen. Photograph courtesy of Johnson Publishing Company, LLC.

and film. The six-time Grammy Award winner has amassed more than 95 major honors, sold more than 64 million records worldwide, and recorded 18 number one singles. All of that aside, Underwood has spoken publicly of her support for gay rights (most

notably marriage equality) and the community has embraced her whole-heartedly. Did you miss out on buying tickets for the sold-out performance? No worries, you can always hear what’s going on in the bandstand from outside, anyway. ■



2015 SUMMER QUEER MUSIC PREVIEW

BY SHANE LUECK

Twin Cities queer music fans have long been making the Queer Music Consortium a success. The Consortium, made up of 5 individual GLBT music organizations in the metro area, traditionally performs the first Monday in June. While many fans will be disappointed to learn that scheduling conflicts with Como Park, there is no need to go without a queer music fix. The organizations that make up the Consortium have an exciting summer planned and invite everyone to enjoy the sweet sounds of music by and for the community.

CALLIOPE WOMEN'S CHORUS

www.calliopewomenschorus.org

You may recognize Calliope Women's Chorus from their flash mob at Pine City Pride last year, or maybe from MPR's radio announcements of their participation in Harmony in the Park. If you haven't heard of them, you're going to want in on this feminist choir.

"We always have an eye toward addressing issues that impact women and opportunities to sing the work of women composers," says Artistic Director Richard Carrick.

The chorus' fall concert was 'Universal Dream: For All Who Seek Dignity, Home, and Hope' which included a variety of songs from other cultures and a focus on immigration issues. Their spring concert was just as powerful, titled 'Revolutionary Women – Celebrating Women Who Change the World' which included pieces about Harriet Tubman, Abigail Adams, Joan of Arc, Malala Yousafzai, strong mothers, and a variety of other women who have made waves. Both concerts included works by women composers including Abbie Betinis and Joan Szymko.

"Every concert includes social justice themes, be it marriage equality, gender equality, civil rights, immigration, etc.," Carrick says. "The repertoire ranges in style, from early chant to popular music, and from classical to gospel. Each concert includes a variety of styles."

Carrick continues, "Together, we can make meaningful changes in our world through the power of our voices. Our themes include hope, social justice, change, and equality. Our goal is to connect with people on multiple levels and really resonate with our audiences."

Members range in age from college students to retirees, and include students, volunteers, professors, and those working in and around the Twin Cities in a variety of fields. As a women's chorus, singers include women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, and straight.

"What brings us together is a shared passion for music and for social justice and our desire to bring about social change through the power of song," Carrick says.

What began as a small group of women playing music together informally in 1976, has seen ebbs



Calliope Women's Chorus. Photo by HM Photography

and flows over the years, shrinking to a handful of members just a few years ago. Since the new artistic director, Richard Carrick, joined three years ago, the chorus has grown a lot, both in numbers and in musical quality. As he says, Calliope is once again a choir that sings complex and interesting music with excellence and pride.

As the second oldest feminist chorus in the United States (celebrating their 40th anniversary this year), they certainly know how to have fun! From monthly

potlucks before rehearsals to get to know each other and to socialize to informal post-rehearsal gatherings in celebration of birthdays, general merriment, holiday parties, post-concert parties, and support for member's extra-curricular activities.

Auditions are as much for the potential singer to get to know Calliope as for Calliope to meet the singer. Women who are interested in auditioning bring a song to sing for the director and associate director. This can be

any style and either a cappella or with piano accompaniment, and should be chosen to show the singer's voice at its best. After that, there are some musical and pitch-matching exercises. Current members are there to share information about Calliope. The next auditions will be August 25 and anyone interested should email (board@calliopewomenschorus.org) to set up an audition time or alternate date.

MPR's Harmony in the Park
June 4
East Central Minnesota Pride
June 6
Twin Cities Pride
June 28
Jazz in the Vineyard
July 12

MINNESOTA FREEDOM BAND

www.mnfreedomband.org

The Freedom Band has a long history as the only openly gay band in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, and Iowa (something they're proud of). They have marched in every single Twin Cities Pride parade since the Pride festival started. It was Ashley Rukes that approach some community member to form a gay band to march in the parade. Thus, the Minnesota Freedom Band was born with 13-15 people marching in the Pride Parade in Minneapolis in 1982.

Summer 2015 offers a few more opportunities to see the band perform. The annual Pride concert at Lake Harriet Band Shell is the Minnesota Freedom Band's closing concert for the season in terms of the concert band. The organization has a marching band that performs during the summer as well as a couple jazz band gigs. The Lake Harriet concert has been a staple for the group since the band started in 1982, performing music



Minnesota Freedom Band. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

that they played throughout the season while adding a few new pieces to the mix. Fans should also note that the Freedom Jazz! Big Band is performing again at the Twin Cities Pride festival in the park on Sunday.

"Our Lake Harriet Band Shell Concert and TC Pride Jazz Band performance is more or less a highlight concert of music we performed for the given season," says Eric Dollerschell-Petry, the band's artistic director.

Looking forward to fall, the concert band will be doing a tribute to Glee in November. "We want a concert that the audience will recognize the music as well as pay homage to a television series that was entertaining as well as advocating for music education in our schools," Dollerschell-Petry says.

The concert band has performed everything from Broadway, TV show themes, and standard band repertoire to new works by wind band composers, commission works, Latin music, polkas, folk tunes, jazz, rock, soul, funk, and R&B. As Dollerschell-Petry says, "Our likes and dislikes of music are somewhat subjective and not objective."

Many of the ideas for music literature come from communication with other artistic directors in the Lesbian and Gay Band Association as well as being current

with band works from publishers and other local band directors. For example, the band's last spring concert in April featured music from openly gay and lesbian composers who write for wind bands.

For this concert, the band commissioned a new work from an openly gay composer. The work was about Edith (Edie) Windsor, the outspoken and dynamic advocate for same-sex marriage. In 2009, she filed a lawsuit challenging the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). "It was challenging, and yet, the music spoke to many of us in the band and the audience because of the roller-coaster political journey for our state to recognize same-sex marriage," Dollerschell-Petry says.

Overall, there is a lot of research that goes into selecting music. Dollerschell-Petry spends many hours researching band works, score reading, balancing the band's musicianship with the number of people in the ensemble, while trying to keep a good handle on balancing the difficulty level of the music. He says, "To me, the music should be enjoyed by the musicians performing the concert as well as the audience enjoying the finished product. The greatest joy of directing the concert band is seeing the excitement and joy when an individual

member nails a part in a song or gets moved by the sonorous sound in individual work."

The band is made up of people from all walks of life, ranging from lawyers and small business owners to philanthropists and individuals who work in large corporate companies. You'll even find some college students, moms and dads, music teachers, people with music performance degrees, and people who want to come back to playing their instrument after a hiatus.

With a mission statement to be a GLBT organization that welcomes all musicians to its musical ensembles, the band is different from other GLBT music groups in Minnesota because they don't have formal auditions. For many people just getting back into music, auditions can be intimidating, and the Freedom Band wants to be welcoming to others as well as make the band a safe space for people to enjoy music. The jazz band has an informal audition process, but as for the concert band and marching band, they do not hold auditions. As Artistic Director, Dollerschell-Petry does ask an individual's background in music but anyone who is a little rusty doesn't need to worry; there are some music teachers in the group as well who can give private lessons to help get a person to relearn their instrument.



"The membership of our band has been a challenge due to work changes, family, and other issues," Dollerschell-Petry says. "But we manage, and it's the natural ebb and flow of things."

Concert Band
June 22
Marching Band
June 28
Freedom Jazz!
June 28

MINNESOTA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA www.mnphil.org

"We are generally excited to spend our first full season with our new conductor Alexander Platt," says Joe Burling, marketing committee chair for the orchestra. Platt came on at the end of last season.

Although there is one concert left in summer, Burling is looking forward to November already for the children and families concert. "For our November concert, we love to give kids the opportunity to experience classical music in a space where they are free to wander around, dance, or clap along as we play," he says. "And our November concert features two female composers born in the 20th century, which is a rarity for a modern-day orchestra program." The concert in question explores forms of water music, starting with one of the most famous by Handel. The Water Music was scored for a larger orchestra to be performed on a barge floating down the Thames River at the behest of King George I. You



Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra. Photos by Matthew F. Mitchell

can almost imagine the baroque sounds wafting in the wind over the waves.

Kevin Ford, a gay man, founded the orchestra more than 20 years ago. "We are in a unique position of being the oldest

orchestra serving the GLBTA community in the country," Burling says.

As alluded to earlier, the orchestra performs classical music with a focus on highlighting the talents of GLBT, women, minority,

and living composers. "We are an instrumental voice for the GLBTA community," Burling says.

As part of its vision, the orchestra seeks to provide diverse arts entertainment of the highest quality, resulting in increased

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visibility for the musical talents of the GLBT community. This vision is reflected in the makeup of its performers. The orchestra is made up of a diverse group of musicians from across the Twin Cities who share a joy for playing and sharing classical music, welcoming gay and straight players alike to its ranks.

Of course, the orchestra is always looking for new players. Burling says the audition process is very informal and those interested in playing should contact the orchestra via their website. This love for new members has allowed the small chamber music group to grow to a 50+ member full orchestra, and they only hope to grow even more. Burling says, "We have recently hired a new conductor, Alexander Platt, to help us

continue to grow musically and better serve our musicians and the community."

*MPO at the Lake Harriet Bandshell
June 21*

ONE VOICE MIXED CHORUS

www.ovmc.org

Never one to shy away from a challenge, One Voice Mixed Chorus is taking on gender and gender-stereotypes in their next concert, Gender UnChecked. "The concert incorporates stories and spoken word featuring youth from Reclaim (a non-profit serving LGBT youth) and gender-bending, larger-than-life puppets which we used in our school concerts this spring," says Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller.

One Voice performs across the Twin Cities and each fall in Greater Minnesota. In addition to ticketed concerts, the chorus performs at community events, many middle and high schools, and in support of other GLBT organizations and causes. "We also make a point to perform at mainstream (aka 'straight') choral events," Miller says, "because I believe it is important that everyday Minnesotans know who we are and experience our music."

The chorus' fall concert theme was "Eat, Drink & Be Married" honoring the people and organizations that have made same-sex marriage a reality in Minnesota. "I chose the theme for our Gender UnChecked concert over a year ago before I knew that trans and gender-queer rights would be such a prominent issue

publicly," Miller says. "Great timing and so important in our community."

In some ways Miller describes her programming as "choral theater." In addition to incredible choral music (classical, folk-based, international, jazz-inspired, contemporary), One Voice concerts may have spoken poetry or stories woven between songs, video projection, audience sing-along, movement, and instrumentalists. She says, "I have a deep love of global music so you can bet that every concert will have some kind of international repertoire on the program."

"You know, Minnesota is the Land of 10,000 Choirs," she continues. "So I consciously program in ways that are different from the 'stand on risers and sing a few songs' format. I pick a theme or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 ➔

One Voice Mixed Chorus. Photo courtesy of One Voice Mixed Chorus



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Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. Photos courtesy of Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus



topic that I feel speaks to our mission and that will also engage our audiences. I may have a few great pieces in mind that really inform the program initially. For a two-hour concert I will probably play through and consider over 250 pieces before selecting the final 18 that end up on the program. I grew up in a Mennonite community surrounded by a cappella four-part harmony. It is in my blood. The Mennonites also gave me a passion for peace and justice which plays significantly into my programming with One Voice."

Back in 1988, One Voice initially welcomed gay men and lesbians, but the community soon broadened to include singers who identify as bisexual, trans, and gender-queer. The chorus doesn't ask about anyone's gender or sexual preference so Miller was surprised when they did a survey and discovered that 29 percent of the chorus identifies as straight. As she describes, One Voice is a welcoming, passionate community of people that care about GLBT rights and love

to sing great music.

Their mission is "building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song" and anyone who shares that mission is welcome to join. With members as young as 16 and as old as 78, there truly are no limits.

In Miller's 20 years as artistic director, she has seen the chorus grow and change tremendously, from 30 singers to 125 and the audience size is growing constantly (the chorus performed for just under 12,000 people last year). "I see singers who enter the chorus with very little musical experience end up performing solos, learning to read music, and dancing on stage!" she says. "I hope we continue to improve our musical excellence each year. Performing this year at the new Ordway Concert Hall is symbolic of how far we have come."

For anyone wishing to join the chorus, "singer-friendly" auditions are held August 24 and 25, as well as auditions at their Pride booth. Singers need

to match pitch and hold their own voice part in a group of 125 singers. "Of course, I need to keep the sections balanced so that limits how many I can accept in each voice part," Miller says. "Right now we're especially beefing up our bass section. So hey basses, give us a call and come out to One Voice!"

What will they tackle next? Following their Pride concert, One Voice encourages you to think *American Idol* meets *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* (only with very gay showtunes) with the Twin Cities' first Showtune Showdown at the Parkway Theater. One Voice has challenged The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus and The Singers...and may be the best chorus win!

For tickets and audition information, be sure to visit One Voice's website or look them up on Facebook.

Gender Unchecked
June 13
Twin Cities Pride
June 28
One Voice hosts "Showtune Showdown"
July 13

TWIN CITIES GAY MEN'S CHORUS

www.tcgmc.org

In addition to the three headliner concerts that audiences have come to love each year at Ted Mann Concert Hall, Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus also performs

free outreach concerts all over the metro area and the state of Minnesota. In fact, June 7 sees the chorus performing for St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Roseville as part of a fundraising event for the international Episcopal Relief organization that provides emergency relief and aid projects for communities in need around the world.

"Almost all of our concerts are programmed around specific themes," says Artistic Director Dr. Ben Riggs. "We have performed concerts featuring the music of bands like The Beatles and ABBA, concerts around themes like marriage equality and anti-bullying, and concerts presenting brand-new music commissions like 'I Am Harvey Milk' by Andrew Lipppa."

Fans of the chorus know that they aren't tied down to any one genre. The chorus performs music of all types, from classic to contemporary, traditional choral music to new arrangements of popular songs. Riggs says the diverse audiences are drawn to the diversity in programming.

"The mission of TCGMC is 'gay men building community through music,'" Riggs says. "Whether we are singing Beatles, Broadway, or more traditional choral music, we program and perform with the intention of touching people's hearts and transforming people's lives with our singing."

In a group made up of gay



men from all backgrounds and ages (from age 18 to 70), the numbers are always growing. In 35 years, the chorus has grown to 170 members and has continually raised their artistic standard with challenging repertoire and newly commissioned music. None of this growth would have been possible, Riggs says, without the generous support from the community and the chorus' commitment to engaging the people of Minnesota through outreach and collaboration.

The number of members is sure to keep growing, as the chorus generally holds auditions two or three times a year at the beginning of the rehearsal period for each concert (September, January, and sometimes April). "We are always looking for experienced singers as potential new members for the Chorus," Riggs says.

He continues, "People who aren't familiar with us are surprised to learn two things: the number of singers in our group (currently at 170), and the fact that we have been around for 35 years."

If you've never heard Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus perform, it's time you came out. What better way than TCGMC's Pride concert? To celebrate Pride and close the season, TCGMC will present *Popular: A Broadway Cabaret*. Join the chorus as they turn Ted Mann Concert Hall into a night club featuring soloists, musicians, and the men of the Chorus as they sing beloved songs old and new from Broadway favorites. ■

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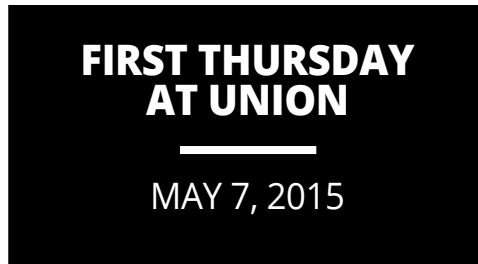


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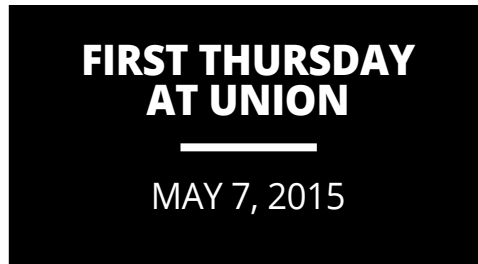


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LOVE & MARRIAGE & THEN SOME...

First comes love, then comes marriage, then comes...well, you know the rhyme. But those things can come in any order they choose — or we choose — nowadays. And with same-sex marriage, adoption, in vitro fertilization (IVF), and blended families, there are sure a lot of possibilities. If you watch ABC Family's show, *The Fosters*, also on Netflix, you know that there can be many different kinds of children in a family such as biological, adopted, and fostered. When I first met my partner, Donna, she already had a son from her previous marriage. I met Todd when he was eight. After Donna and I got married, before it was legal, we wanted to have a baby together and I wanted to experience being pregnant. But, stating the obvious, we are both women, so we can't just wake up one day and say, "Oops honey, we're pregnant!" Hence there is a process which I explain in my memoir, *Diary of a Gay, Pregnant Bride*. Below is an excerpt from the book:

Before we got pregnant we called our future baby girl, Michaela, after my dad, Michael. We planned to choose

the gender and use IVF from a clinic. I had always wanted a girl, and with my mother saving all my dolls, which filled

up two rooms in her house, there was no question.

Wanting the baby to be both of our genes, Donna and

I planned to use one of her brothers as the donor. But deciding which brother to ask was difficult. One lived in

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“After Donna and I got married, before it was legal, we wanted to have a baby together and I wanted to experience being pregnant.”

Vietnam, one was in jail, one was homeless, and one recently got married. Vinny, the one who got married was the youngest and cutest, but he was also not fond of going out of his way for others and had a new wife to consider.

The homeless brother, Jake, was Donna's favorite brother. He was honest and kind, but life circumstances didn't help Jake to fix his situation. He ended up living on the streets until one winter, cold and with nowhere else to go, he agreed to let Donna bring him to our house. He didn't want to impose on us and said he would rather live on the street than inconvenience us, but we had room and wanted to help him.

He lived with us for a year before we were ready to ask him the big question.

“Jake, we have something to ask you,” I said to him in our kitchen one night.

“Anything,” he said.

“We don't want you to feel obligated and we want you to take a while and think about it, okay?”

He smiled awkwardly and asked, “What is it?”

Donna laughed.

Rolling his cigarettes at the table, Jake's hands were gentle and careful.

“We were wondering if you would be able to help us have a baby by donating some of your sperm.”

“Of course. I'd do anything



Photo by Render Photography

for you guys.”

“We want you to think about it, talk to your wife in Vietnam.”

“I don't need to think about it.”

I looked at Donna. She said some things in Vietnamese to him to make sure he understood my English correctly.

“You would just have a

couple visits to the clinic for them to do some tests and collect a sample,” I said.

“Sure, no problem.”

Donna and I giggled from the awkwardness.

The clinic process, as we found out, was more complex when you have a known donor and want to pick the gender of the child. We were prepared

for the high costs, but not the two three-hour psychologist appointments an hour away, over three days that we had to coordinate with our three work schedules. Then there was the lawyer we had to go with through the company. They charged \$1,000 just for signing the donor paperwork and we still had to drive an hour away.

The appointments started becoming too much for our schedules and pocketbooks, and then there was talk of quarantining the sperm for several months before we could start. Donna and I talked.

September 2012

“I don't necessarily have any fertility issues, and Jake already has two children in Vietnam,” I said.

“I don't care anymore if it's a boy or girl,” Donna said.

“I guess we can try on our own. And if it's a boy we can save that IVF money for adopting a girl in the future. I just want to have a baby.”

“Ok, then let's do it on our own.”

The entire process became very convenient with Jake living in our basement. Since he was a smoker, I asked him a few days prior to ovulating not to smoke much. Then on the nights we would try he would let us know when the cup of life was on the table by saying, “Ok, I'm going out for a smoke now!”

On the nights we had Todd,



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Donna would entertain him while I tried my best with a 4-inch syringe from Target. Other times Donna would assist. I would then elevate my lower half afterwards to allow gravity to help in the process.

This went on for seven months, once a month.

"I think we should try two days in a row this time," I said, after the sixth month. "And I'll elevate longer."

A few weeks later I took a pregnancy test and both the negative symbol and the positive symbol appeared, but much too quickly this time. I figured it was defective and decided to wait.

A few days later I took another test and it was negative. I tested again later, it was also negative. Wanting to be pregnant so badly, I researched test results online. I found out

a test can appear negative if you drink a lot of water, which I had that day, and also it's likely to have false negatives, but less likely to have a false positive. I waited until morning to test again.

Positive.

And nine months later a little boy we call "Boo Bear" was born. First came love, then came Todd, then came marriage, then came the very pregnant bride for the legal marriage, then came the baby carriage, and more love... ■

Kelly Frankenberg is an artist and writer and lives with her family in St. Paul, Minnesota. See her books, blogs, and artwork at www.kellyfrankenberg.com, Diary of a Gay, Pregnant Bride comes out June 29th. See more at www.diaryofagaypregnantbride.com.



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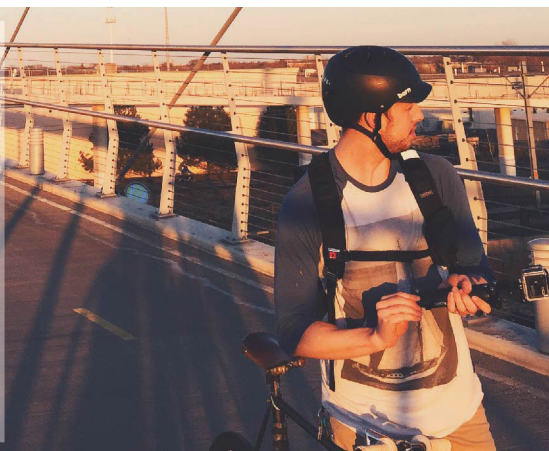
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Chana Rothman. Photo courtesy of Chana Rothman

RAINBOW RESOURCES

Chana Rothman, *Rainbow Train*

Philadelphia-based singer/songwriter Chana Rothman was unsure what to do when her son, a toddler, asked to wear a dress to school. She searched for children's music rooted in messages of gender freedom to engage in positive parenting but came up short. After reaching dead end after dead end, Rothman decided to write her own album on gender identity and expression: the groundbreaking *Rainbow Train*, which debuted May 5.

Rainbow Train, Rothman's first children's album, offers guidance to parents and teachers who want to support healthy gender development by disarming the gender binary that society currently imposes on us all.

"Today's young people need songs that show them all the choices and possibilities that they are allowed to become," Rothman says. "The more

they can see beyond the 'pink' and 'blue' that gets pushed on them, the happier and more confident they will be. This goes for adults, too."

A soundtrack for gender liberation, *Rainbow Train* covers all the bases — anti-bullying, love, acceptance, and pride — and strives to create a world where children are free of the expectations and pressures embedded in gender constraints and stereotypes. It also harks back to the mid-1970s' *Free to Be... You and Me* by Marlo Thomas and Friends, which served as inspiration for her album, Rothman notes.

Though created for children, the album is musically advanced, full of catchy hooks and melodies that adults won't mind listening to on repeat. *Rainbow Train* has a style for everyone: folk, ballad, hip-hop, disco, pop, spoken word, rock, Latin jazz, and children's voices in dialogue.

With this album, Roth-

man aims to affirm and celebrate the many different ways to express gender; attach a relatable voice to a growing gender-freedom movement; open a dialogue based on respect, honesty, and kindness; and provide a usable, danceable tool that can create social change. "Dress Up and Dance" is a particularly notable track that both children and parents can relate to and perhaps use as a tipping-off point for a conversation on individuality and being respectful of others. ■

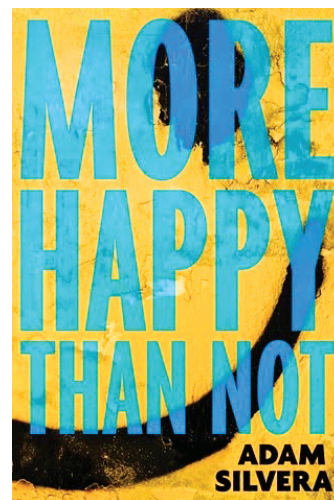
Available on CD Baby: www.cdbaby.com/cd/rainbowtrain

More Happy Than Not
Part *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, part *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, Adam Silvera's extraordinary debut confronts race, class, and sexuality during one nearfuture Bronx summer. Silvera's is one of the most authentic voices in young

adult fiction today. He was a bookseller before shifting to children's publishing where he worked at a literary development company, a creative writing website for teens, and as a book reviewer of children's and young adult novels.

Silvera has a lot in common with Aaron Soto, his protagonist. Both grew up in a one-bedroom apartment in the Bronx, with a distant brother and an overworked, single mom. And both have to navigate the dangerous business of coming out as gay in a culture of machismo and violence. Aaron undergoes a memory erasure procedure at the Leteo Institute in response to the prejudices in his community, to try to be "normal." Not surprisingly, trying to bend himself to those expectations doesn't solve anything. *More Happy Than Not* lends a necessary voice to the literary world where #WeNeedDiverseBooks has become a rallying cry.

Silvera will also be at Ad-dendum Books in St. Paul for a stop on his book tour on June 16. Stop by and meet the author behind one of YA fiction's best GLBT novels.



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2015 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport



Let me cut through the confusion here: There are two Hyundai Santa Fes. Let me explain.

A year-and-a-half ago, *Lavender* reviewed the bigger, three-row version of the Santa Fe. Now, we received the smaller, two-row Sport model just as Hyundai announced its plans to create a three-crossover strategy, including the new 2016 Tucson coming this summer.

The differences between the two Santa Fes go beyond how many rows of seats are avail-

able. The three-row version is powered only by V6 engines, while the two-row Sport are only powered with four-cylinder engines.

Does it make any difference which Santa Fe to get? And, which one would fit our lifestyle better?

Though the bigger Santa Fe is more purposeful and handsome, the Sport is a better looking vehicle. It simply looks sporty. Size-wise, it fits being a two-row active crossover. The rear end has a rakish slope to it, befitting

its purpose. Throughout the exterior, there is a tightness to the Sport — gym-toned and ready for action anywhere.

This image is enhanced by the tasteful amount of chrome found on this AWD 2.0T Ultimate package model. Though sporty, the chromed grille, door handles, and accents bring out an upmarket style to this sporty go-anywhere machine. Brighter 19-inch wheels complement this white vehicle, again feeding into the upmarket style outside.

The upmarket feel continues inside. A beige/brown two-tone is accented by satin-chrome and blonde wood finishes. Perforated leather invites us to enjoy the Ultimate package and its luxurious cabin, something that reminds us of the current Genesis sedan. Familiar Hyundai switches, instrument gauges, TFT information screen, and the touchscreen on the center stack invite the Santa Fe Sport owner to truly relax and enjoy this ride.

The seats are on the firm side and lack deep bolstering. However, they are fine for running around town and beyond. Power adjustments are available for lumbar, recline, rake, and height to provide better comfort for most drivers. Rear seat room is also adjustable for rake and recline. I found that if you push the seats back, you can get five adults to ride along in the Santa Fe Sport. Cargo room is expansive; yet tall, square boxes would have to work with the slope of the roof at the rear. For basic luggage carrying, it is quite accommodating.

BlueLink anchors an infotainment/telematics system that is quite good. A backup camera is available with rear parking assist sensors. Navigation is accurate and Bluetooth pairing is very quick. Infinity offers a Logic 7 surround sound system buoyed by 12 speakers making the Santa Fe Sport into a concert hall.

The finishing touch is the available panoramic roof. Believe me when I say this: it really makes the smaller Sport cabin a lot more airy and light when the shade is pulled back. Again, this feeds into the upmarket feel of the Santa Fe Sport.

As mentioned before, Sport models come strictly with four-cylinder engines. Choosing the 2.0T model offers up a turbocharged 2.0-liter engine designed for getting anywhere a bit quicker. With 265 horsepower on tap, the Turbo turns the Sport into a mile-grabbing machine. Add a six-speed automatic transmission and the all-wheel drive system, and it simply is a smooth driving vehicle. There is turbo lag present on occasion — passing maneuvers and on-ramp climbs — but not enough for the Santa Fe Sport to be carved up by a weaker vehicle.

Though the Sport may be smaller in dimen-



sions than its larger three-row brother, it actually rides as nice as the three-row Santa Fe. It is smooth, with some road feedback on rougher surfaces. However, the dampers are excellent in keeping things balanced on any surface. It is a nice riding two-row crossover. Handling reveals a tinge of roll and lean through the corners. On subtler turns, it corners near flat.

Steering is quite good. The trick to keeping the on-center feel perfect is to switch the Driver Selectable Steering Mode button to Sport. Otherwise, the turns are good and response is precise. Brakes are also good, with solid stops in normal and panic situations.

One thing to consider in a crossover is fuel economy. Even with the turbo, I was able to manage 22.8MPG on the average. That is better than the combined figure Hyundai said is Santa Fe Sport 2.0T would get.

The Santa Fe Sport is actually priced well for its class, starting at \$24,950 for a front-drive

model with the standard 190-horsepower 2.4-liter engine. Step up to the turbo, and that price jumps to \$31,250. This all-wheel drive Ultimate 2.0T tester came with a sticker price of \$38,350.

The Hyundai Santa Fe Sport is really a good two-row crossover. It is handy for every situation: the daily commute, road trip out of state, and a night out on the town. Not to mention, the Santa Fe Sport is a stylish machine that fits with our lifestyle quite nicely.

That pretty much answers which Hyundai Santa Fe fits our lifestyle. Most GLBT consumers of crossovers and SUVs are mainly looking for two-rows of seating and expandable cargo space for anything and everything. They also want a mix of ample performance, fuel economy, ease of drive, and something that gets around without too much burden. Taking all of this under consideration, it sound like that we want the Santa Fe Sport.

That was an easy decision. ■



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www.mnaidsproject.org

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Go To Hell, Science

Some days I get very mad at science. Some days I feel like telling science to go straight to hell.

Like today, for example. It was announced that scientists have decided that Brontosaurus was a real dinosaur. This is after decades of telling us that we (non-scientists) were imbeciles for thinking that this creature was different from a dinosaur called Apatosaurus.

Let me give you a timeline of how this mess happened. Over a century ago, scientists announced that they found fossils for two different dinosaurs: Apatosaurus and Brontosaurus. Then, decades later, they said the fossils were from the same animal — not from separate animals — and — guess what! — they're both named Apatosaurus. Science — that sadistic bastard! — knew that we were all much more familiar with Brontosaurus because of *The Flintstones*, but selected the other name just to make us all look stupid.

And, now, with absolutely no apology, science announces that Brontosaurus really did exist so we can go back to acknowledging them again.

Well, you know what science? I don't care what you say because I never stopped calling them Brontosaurus. What's more, I still refer to Pluto as a planet, and I let water boil or freeze at whatever temperature it damn well chooses. You know why, science? Because I'm

tired of letting you run my life.

I know what you're thinking: Science is good! It's logical! If it weren't for science there'd be no internet or sugar substitutes! Smart people love science! So, if I don't like science, I must be:

- a.) A religious wacko; or
- b.) Stupid.

And, yes, in most cases, I'd agree that people who hate science are all the above. But just because you get mad at science doesn't mean you don't believe in it. I do believe in science! I'm absolutely fine with the idea that I evolved from an ape! Global warming is happening and it's scary! I'm really worried about the fate of polar bears!

But, sometimes, science goes too far and acts like a bully and an arrogant jerk. And that's when I get mad and threaten to stop believing in gravity.

What typically sets me off is when science kills my dreams.

Science loves magic — but only the magic it creates and can explain in an insufferably smug and reasonable manner. Science seems to relish the opportunity to debunk the ethereal things that make us feel hopeful, thrilled, and alive: like God and love.

Excited that near-death experiences may prove the existence of an after-life? Oh, silly

fool, says science. That's simply a hallucination caused by insufficient oxygen to the brain. There is no God, you backward, primitive idiot. And then science rolls its eyes and sighs dramatically before launching into a lecture about the Theory of Relativity, which it wields as a theoretical weapon to destroy any notion of faith, spirituality, or soulfulness.

Euphoric because you're in love? Get a grip, says science. Love isn't a real thing. Then science scans your brain and takes a blood sample to demonstrate how you've been chemically manipulated into temporarily thinking that it's a really good idea to purchase a sectional couch with someone you barely know. This won't end well, clucks science. And you'll lose a lot of money on that couch.

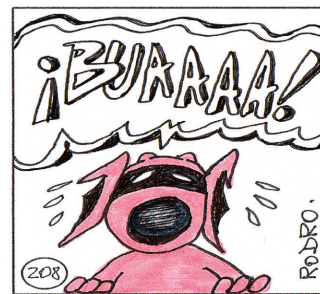
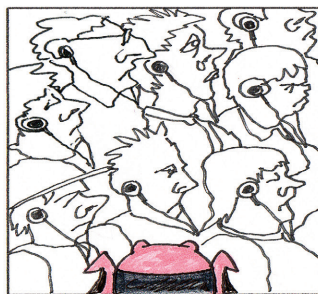
Is science right about this stuff? Sure, but who cares? Why must science ruthlessly discard the fun and mystery of life by plugging any joyful element into an equation in order to create a tidy explanation?

Science should stick to finding cures for cancer, feeding the hungry, and developing better technology so we can finally kill off Comcast.

As we've seen, science doesn't know everything. It was wrong about the Brontosaurus. So why would I trust it to explain away the vagaries of my heart and my soul? ■

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